

The Irish-Evidence
 Convicted by their Own
OATHS:
 OR, THEIR
SWEARING
 AND
Counter-Swearing
 Plainly Demonstrated
 In Several of Their Own
AFFIDAVITS,
 Herewith faithfully Published.
 AS ALSO,
 A Full and Impartial ACCOUNT
 OF THEIR
Past & Present Practices.

L O N D O N :

Printed for *William Inghal* the Elder. 1682.

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The Irish-Evidence CONVICTED

By their own

O A T H S.



Doubt not but the *whole Nation* is by this time sufficiently Alarm'd with the noise of the *Irish Witnesses*, and their *Notorious Adventures*, their *Swearing*, *Counter-swearing*, *Quarrels* amongst themselves, *Suborning*, and being *Suborn'd*, Endeavours to drop the *Popish Plot*, and *Sham* another upon Protestants, &c. are become the Common themes of every Table-talk, and the Subject matter of *Play-House Drills*.

But the Methods *how*, the persons *by whom*, and the *Ends* for which they were turn'd *Renegado's*, and brought to debauch their Consciences to such an unparallel'd degree, are things perhaps not so Generally known, or taken notice of.

Nor shall I (though I have more Reason than *most* Private Persons to Inspect those Affairs) undertake fully to satisfy in all those Particulars, only shall here present the publick with a few *Remarques* and *true Copies* of some of their own Depositions, which will afford us not a little Light therein; for he must be extremely *dull*, that by those four *Grapes* cannot Judge of the whole *Vintage*.

1. It appears by *Coleman's Letters*, and all the *Evidence* of the *Popish Plot*, that the same was a *General Conspiracy* to Subvert and Root out the Protestant Religion, not only in *England*, but likewise in the rest of his Majesties Dominions, and indeed throughout the World. Whence it cannot in Reason be imagin'd, they would neglect to carry on the same in *Ireland*; a Kingdom where the over-balance of *Papists*, the open undisturb'd Residence of *Popish Bishops and Priests*, the natural *Antipathy* and *Malice* in the Natives towards the *English* (as well on the account of Religion, as for enjoying several of their Lands) and many other Reasons, afforded such apt fuel for that *Combustion*. On the other side, 'tis most probable, that the *French*, as well to embroil our Affairs, and promote *Papery*, as more especially in hopes of gaining, at long Run, the Possession and Government of so Important a Kingdom into their own Hands, might be forward enough in offering them *Assistance*, as they did to the Rebels of *Messina* in *Sicily*, when lately they Revolted from their Sovereign the King of *Spain*.

2. The Plot in *England* being Discovered, and the Prosecution vigorously carried on against the Traytors, and some of them Executed, 'tis no wonder, if *Conscious Guilt*, and *Fear*, (a very powerful motive with an *Irish* man, and which has abundance more Influence on them than true Remorse of Conscience, or Kindness to the *English*) might prevail with some of the Conspirators to Discover what they knew; and indeed their Informations were so Coherent, and Backt with such pregnant Circumstances, that both His Majesty and the Parliament declared themselves satisfied, There was such a *Bloody and Traiterous design* on foot in that Kingdom, and accordingly Plunket the Titular Primate, on the Testimony of some of these Evidence, and his own Papers, was Condemn'd and Executed.

3. But the Popish Party taking Boldness from the Dissolutions of Parliaments, whereby the Prosecution against them, was not so vigorously carried on, or at least retarded, and perceiving the Poverty of these Witnesses, who had a very little to subsist on, but

the *meir Charity* of well-disposed Protestants, resolv'd to try if they could *take them off*, and prevail with them by *Bribes and Hopes* to decline their former Evidence, and lay the *Plot* at the Protestants doors.

This they foresaw would be a *two-edg'd* Strategem; for if they succeeded, and could get these Witnesses to be *believ'd* as to the Protestant Plot, then they should infallibly destroy many of their Enemies and most *zealous Prosecutors*, as the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, &c. or if the *Sham* were Discovered, and the Witnesses Trapp'd in their Stories, yet however it would spoil their *Credit*, and render their Testimony so suspected as to be Invalid against any of the *Popish Traytors*, and so either way not fail of doing their Party a most Effectual Service.

Nor had they reason to *despair* of prevailing with these fellows, for though *some* of them (not all) did now call themselves *Protestants*, yet even those pretended Converts remain'd *Papists* in their Hearts, or at least were still *Irish* men, that is, implacable Enemies to the *English*. And as *fear of a Rope* first brought them to Discover, so now these fears beginning to lessen, and *new fears* arise, that they should suffer for *Discovery*; Therefore, the only way whereby they could hope for reconciliation to their *Countrymen*, and *Pardon* and *Abolution* from their Church, was to be instrumental in Sacrificing the *Lives* of as many Protestants as they could to her Interest, as a *Peace-Offering*. Add hereunto their wretched *Poverty*, which not only rendred them *desperate*, but that *very small Relief* which they had received from Protestants, gave them greater opportunities to colour such a *Sham-Plot*, and swear against their Charitable Innocent Benefactors.

4. In order therefore to this, they first *tamper* with and prevail upon *David Fitz-Gerald*, and make use of him as a *Decoy* to wheedle in the rest, concerning which *Worshipful Tool*, it will be necessary to give a brief Account. His *Pedigree* is very suitable to his Employment and Practises, his Father a pitiful Villain, considerable only for having had the honour to have been *Indicted* and *Out-law'd*, as being one of the *Cut-throats* of the Protestants in the late Rebellion in that Kingdom, and who now goes a begging with his Wife from Door to Door: This young Hero, their Son, was Originally a *Foot-Boy*, first to one Captain *Butler*, and afterwards to one Colonel *Piggot*, and though he hath had the impudence to say before the King and Council, that he was a man of a *considerable Estate*, 'tis most Notorious, that in Lands, Goods or otherwise, he was never worth *twenty Pounds* in his Life, whilst he continued in *Ireland*; and what he hath done as to *Discovery* of any thing of the *Popish Plot*, he was provok'd thereunto rather by desire of *Revenge*, than any Sentiments of *Loyalty*: for his Landlord Sir *Thomas Southwel* having distrain'd a few *Cattel* he had for his Rent, (which were not at all worth 10 *l.*) And having no way to recover them back again (being all that he and his Family had to subsist on) but by breaking of the *Pound* and stealing them out, and Sir *Thomas* Prosecuting him for the same, he then in *Revenge* Charges Sir *Thomas* for *Concealing the Popish Plot*, pretended to be Discovered by him, to the said Sir *Thomas* sometime before, which whether *true* or *false*, I determin not; 'tis certain few people *believ'd* it, the whole Country knowing him to be a fellow of so *vile a Life* and *Conversation*, that they would give no credit to any thing he should either *say* or *swear*, though they were otherwise well satisfied of the designs of the *Papists*.

But he hearing that the *Irish Plot* was discovered in *England* by Mr. *Hetherington* to the King and Council, comes over for *England*, and gave Information before the King and Council and both *Houses* of Parliament, against several Persons that were concern'd in the *Popish Plot* in *Ireland*; but his *wants* being very great, insomuch, that had not his Landlord given him Credit for *Meat, Drink and Lodging*, he must either have starv'd, or followed the *old Trade* that he formerly practis'd in *Ireland*, and being a fellow naturally *proud, ambitious, false, treacherous*, and disposed as well by his Constitution as former *Conversation* for any kind of Villany; the *Papists* or some of their *disguis'd Factors* and *Abettors*, fell in with him, and manag'd him so, as he not only began to *Retract* his Evidence against Sir *John Fitz-Gerald*, Colonel *Lacy*, and others. And also used all the means he could, by *Threats, Discouragements* and *Temptations*, to get the rest of the Witnesses against them and others to *Retract* also; which ill Practises being found out by Mr. *Hetherington*, he immediately made a *Complaint*, and Exhibited the following *Articles* against him to the House of Commons at *Westminster*.

Articles of High Misdemeanour preferred against David Fitz-Gerald, to the House of Commons, and there proved fully by Mr. William Hetherington, and afterwards before the King and Council ; but not there brought to bearing.

1. **T**He said Fitz-Gerald at the first coming of the Witnesses out of Ireland to prove the Hellish Popish Plot, did seem to be very glad of their coming, to justify their Evidence, and in particular, that of *Eustace Comins*, saying that he was an honest man, and was wrongfully clapt up in prison by the means of Sir William Davis, for discovering of the Plot, which he the said Fitz-Gerald swore he could say more to, than any of them all, and that he could charge the greatest men or man in Ireland therewith, or in words to that effect : but after he saw *Comins's* Narrative Printed, and found that several of his Friends, as he pretended, were charged there, then he began to rail and reflect upon him, and threaten to be the death of him ; and afterwards took occasion to abuse and revile the rest of the Witnesses.

2. That amongst other matters that he pretended he could prove touching the Plot, he said he could prove the day and time that the Duke of York was to be Proclaimed King in Ireland, and that he would tell the King of it, and that he did acquaint the Earl of Burlington coming out from the Committee of the Lords, that he could and would hang those he had accused, and bring great ones to prove the matters he had charged them with.

3. That notwithstanding, the said Fitz-Gerald hath since endeavoured by many waies and means to bring this Informant and the said Witnesses into His Majesties disfavour, and to cast reproaches upon them, the better to Invalidate their Evidence ; alledging untruly, That they had received three thousand pounds from the City of London, or some of the Citizens thereof, or some others whom he would mention if he could.

4. That the said Fitz-Gerald hath sometimes by threats, other times by feasts, treats, moneys, promises, and other waies of perswasion, laboured to take off the said Witnesses from giving their Evidence on His Majesties behalf, particularly in the Case of Sir John Davis, and when all that would not prevail upon them, told them that His Majesty was displeased with this Informant's Proceedings, and would be so with them, if they followed his directions ; and by these devices so affrighted them, that he got them to sign to a Petition to His Majesty (which he drew for the purpose) Intimating, That they were informed, His Majesty did not look upon them as coming to doe him Service ; and that if it were so, they should readily desist appearance further : though their intentions were really to serve His Majesty.

5. That the said Fitz-Gerald, when he knew the said Witnesses were to be called into either Houses of Parliament, or some Committee relating to them, to give in their Evidence, hath endeavoured to hide them, or some of them, that they could not be found ; and when they have been found, he hath laid violent hands on them, or some of them, and would not permit them to go, untill they forced themselves away from him ; and then he threatned them, and those that called them, and with an Oath, said he would break *Shaftsbury's* Knot ; and the better to prevail with the Witnesses, acknowledged he had received for his Service, 100 l. of his Grace the Duke of Ormond, 500 l. from the King, and a Commission to be a Captain ; and that His Majesty had given him two Blank Patents for Barons, the one for his Father-in-Law, and the other to be at his own disposing, and a Grant of the Lands of *Rakeale*, and all the Commons of *Knockgreny* in the County of *Limerick*.

6. That the said Fitz-Gerald had not only villified and threatned the said *Comins*, but had also informed several of the Members of the House of Commons, that the said *Comins* was a very Rogue, and that he could produce many Records against him, and that he was not fit to be credited : and also terrified and threatned to kill him the said *Comins*, so that he was forced for some time to keep himself in Obscurity. That the said Fitz-Gerald hath not only villified and abused him this Informant, and the Evidence which

he was concerned for, but also Mr. *Thomas Sampson*, who came over upon his own accord to serve His Majesty in that matter : and who by his Testimony therein hath given great satisfaction to both Houses of Parliament.

7. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* being examined by a Committee of the House of Commons against Sir *John Fitz-Gerald*, refused to give his Evidence, being his Relation, unless the Committee would promise to Intercede to His Majesty for his the said Sir *John's* Pardon ; and before a Committee of the Lords, in his Evidence, he charged Colonel *John Fitz-Patrick* and Sir *Edmund Scot* to be Confederates in the Plot, but at the Lords Barr would not, though asked, and left their names out in his Narrative, published in Print, of his own knowledge in that matter, his mind being since altered, upon what considerations may well be judged ; he also said before the said Committee, that he feared the worse because they knew that the King had a kindness for him.

8. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* asked the Witnesses, or some of them, whether they retained the *Romish Religion* still ? who replied they did, for which he the said *Fitz-Gerald* commended them for so doing, for that the Protestants would only make use of them for their own purpose and advantage, and afterwards would hang them.

9. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* also told the said Witnesses, or some of them, that the King was satisfied that the late Lord *Stafford* was innocent, denying the Fact at his death, or words to that Effect : and that His Majesty was resolved not to try any more of the Lords in the *Tower*; and after the Parliament was Prorogued, he told the said Witnesses, or some of them, that he would remove their Nests.

10. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* had kept continuall correspondency and familiarity with the four Witnesses which were brought over by a Messenger from *Ireland*; and a Person of Quality perceiving it, told him that he had not observed the Orders the Committee gave him ; which was, That he should not come near any of the Evidence, nor Converse with them. The said *Fitz-Gerald* replied, that he was Commanded by the King to come there, and also gave the said Person of Quality very scurrilous abusive language.

11. The said *Fitz-Gerald* also abused the said four Witnesses, or some of them, and asked them if they came to hang poor *Plunket*.

12. That the said *Fitz-Gerald* said he was abused, because he would not accuse the Duke of *Ormond* and the Chancellor of *Ireland*, which he knew to be as honest men as any in the three Kingdoms.

THE Examination of these Articles being referred to a Committee, Mr. *Hetherington* produced all the Evidence that *Fitz-Gerald* had been tampering with, and gave full satisfaction to the Committee of his villanous Practises, of which indeed his own Insolent Behaviours before the said Committee, might alone have been a very pregnant proof. And the Chair-man of that Committee was making his Report to the House, when the *Black Rod* came to Prorogue them; soon after which, a Dissolution followed, otherwise 'tis probable this Plot-bammer would have been severely dealt with according to Law. But escaping Justice then so luckily, has encouraged him and his Accomplices, to proceed since more boldly in their endeavours to sham the *Papish Plot*, and Suborn Witnesses against the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, Mr. *Hetherington*, &c.

The first course he took to shock the Integrity of the other Witnesses, was to fright them with impudent lies and scandalous Aspersions upon the Person and Honour of His Sacred Majesty, assuring them with Horrid Oaths, That His Majesty did not send for them, nor regard whether they were all hang'd or drown'd, That His Majesty did not believe there was any *Papish Plot* at all, nor care for prosecuting it, That they should never get any allowance if they would not be ruled by him, &c. Such brazen-fac'd slanders on the best of Monarchs, who on all occasions has so vigorously shewn himself a true Defender of the Protestant Faith, that no good Subject can repeat them without Horror, and Wonder that the Villain that broach'd them, has so long escaped the Pillory, or rather the Gallows.

In the next place he braves it out with fine clothes, and insults over the other Witnesses poverty, and shews them whole handfuls of temptation, bright charming Gold : Insinuating that they should have the like encouragement if they would but embark with him in the same design. Some of them indeed had so much conscience and sparks of honesty remaining, or at least such regard to their future repute and safety, as for some time to struggle with these Temptations, and then freely upon Oath discovered the profered Subornations and wheedling devices ; yet afterwards (as may reasonably be judged by the sequel) over-swayed with the suggestions of the Devil and his Instruments, so as to value neither Faith nor Conscience, nor even their former Oaths, pinched with necessities and

Brow-beaten with the frowns of Grandees; and abandoned (almost) by all the World; they began to hearken to the voice of this *Man-catching Syren*, and forget the Popish Plot, and set up the *Irish Ha-loo-loo* against Protestants; and being once engaged, and having flung their Consciences over-board, nothing remains that they will *Boggle* at, or which their grand *Plot-shamming* Masters and daily Feeders please to put them upon.

This may seem a *bold charge*, and would appear very unjust, had we only suspicions and probable proofs, or *violent presumptions*, to justify it, but we have it under several of their *own hands*, nay more upon *their Oaths*, which for the Readers satisfaction; we shall here faithfully recite. The following *Depositions* being by several of them (ere they were so totally debauched) *voluntarily sworn* before the respective Magistrates therein mentioned.

London ff. *The Information of Maurice Fitz-Gerald, Gent. taken this Eighteenth Day of March, 1680. upon Oath before me, Sir John Frederick, Knight and Alderman, one of the Kings Majesties Justices of the Peace, for the City of London.*

THis Informant being duly sworn saith, That wherein it is reported in and about the City of London and Westminster, and other places, That he hath retracted from the Evidence and Information that he gave upon Oath before John Odell, Nicholas Mouncton and George Aylemer, three of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Limerick, in the Kingdom of Ireland, against several Persons in the said Information mentioned, being concerned in the Horrid Popish Plot, contrived against His Majesty and His Protestant Subjects there, it is altogether false and untrue. And further declareth; That whatsoever he hath related in the said Information, is altogether true; and will upon no account whatsoever retract from the same, but will justify the same Information whensoever he this Informant shall be thereunto required. And further saith; That whereas there was a Petition lately presented in the name of this Informant and others (as he hath heard) to the King and Council, by David Fitz-Gerald, That he this Informant had disowned any Information that he had given against Sir John Fitz-Gerald and Colonel Pierce Lacy, He this Informant doth declare, That he knew nothing of the said Petition till after it was presented, and was not any waies concerned in the same.

Jur. Coram me, John Frederick:

Maurice Fitz-Gerald

Vera Copia. E. B.

Which Information given by the said Maurice Fitz-Gerald in Ireland, follows in these words.

Com. Limerick. *The Information of Maurice Fitz-Gerald, Gent. taken before us, John Odell, Nicholas Muncton and George Aylmer, three of His Majesties Justices of the Peace, for the County of Limerick.*

THe Informant being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist saith, That on or about Winter, 1676. after Captain Thomas Mac-Inerina returned out of Flanders and France, whether he had been employed as Agent from the Irish Gentry, there was a very

great meeting, at Colonell *Peirce Lacy's* House at *Curroe*, where met besides the said Colonell, the Lord of *Brittas*, *Molowney* the Popish Titular Bishop of *Killalaw*, *Brenan* the Popish Bishop of *Waterford*, *Duley* the Popish Bishop of *Limerick*, two Jesuits whose names this Informant knows not, Sir *John Fitz-Gerald*, *John Power*, Son to *David Power* late of *Killbolan*, *John Hurley*, *Eustace White*, *John Bourke* of *Cahormohill*, *William Bourke* his Brother, Captain *John Purdon*, Captain *Thomas Mac-Inerina*, Captain *Richard Stephenson*, *David Fitz-Gerald*, and he this Informant, and several others, whose names this Informant knows not, where and at which time the said Captain *Mac-Inerina* gave an account of his Agency, and what Force the French King had promised to send over into this Kingdom of *Ireland*, which to the best of this Informants remembrance, was to be about 20000 men, and Artillery, Armes and Amunition for 20000 men more, which were to be raised in *Munster*, and they then and there consulted how the 20000 men should be raised, and resolved it should be by their Clergy, and made a Computation, and appointed how many each Priest should raise in his Parish; and likewise appointed the Officers that should Command, and saies that the Lord of *Brittas*, Colonell *Pierce Lacy*, Sir *John Fitz-Gerald*, *John Macnamarra* of *Corilaigh*, *John Power*, Captain *Sullivan* of *Beerdhagen*, one *Carty*, and several others were to be Colonels: That *John Bourke* of *Cahormohill* was to be Lieutenant Colonel, and that Captain *Thomas Mac-Inerina* was to be Lieutenant Colonel, or Major to Captain *Sullivan's* Regiment, and that Captain *John Purdon*, Captain *Richard Stephenson*, Mr. *John Hurley* and Mr. *Eustace White*, were to be Field-Officers; and that he hath heard, That Mr. *John Ansell* was to be Lieutenant Colonel, and that Mr. *William Bourke*, Mr. *Theobald Dowdall*, Mr. *Oliver Stephenson*, Mr. *David Fitz-Gerald*, now in *London*, This Informant, and several others, were then appointed Captains, and that *John Bourke* of *Ardagh*, and several others, were appointed Lieutenants; and that *John Dury* and *Tady Quin*, were to be Captains, and that *Nicholas Bourke* and many others of *Limerick*, were then pitched on for the surprize of *Limerick*, whose names at present he remembers not; and saith, That on notice from Captain *Sullivan* of *Beerdhagen* of the Frenches landing, there was a Massacre of all the English resolved in one Night, and persons particularly assigned to the Massacre or Murder of every Family, and saith, That the Popish Servants in each Family were to betray and open the doors, or some other way let in those Irish, and so murder the English in their beds, and after if they could not surprize, they were immediately to besiege *Limerick*: and saith, That by reason of the Emperors, the King of *Spain*, and other the Confederates joyning and assisting the Dutch, the French King was hindred from sending out those Forces and Arms he promised, and so all things were at a stand till about *Michaelmas*, 1679. That all the aforementioned persons, and *John Macnamarra* of *Cratellaigh*, *John Ansell* of *Faroehy*, Captain *Levallin* and several others, met at Mr. *William Bourke's* House at *Lisnackilly*, and continued there two or three daies together, and that the said Captain *Levallin* brought and produced a Commission for the raising of those 20000 men, and uniting them with what Forces should be sent out of *France*, and raised in other parts of this Kingdom; and saith, That he hath heard, that the Earl of *Tyrone* was to be a General Officer, and Colonell *Fitz-Patrick* and Sir *William Talbot*, were to have some great Commands, and saith, That all then present at *Lisnackilly*, bound themselves by strict Oaths, and by an Instrument under their Hands and Seals, to be true and faithfull and stand by each other, and saith, That the Plot is still, and that they have dayly hopes of the French Kings invading, and that he hath heard there was some Powder lately landed in the County of *Clare*, side of the River of *Shanon*, and that he will labour to discover it, and saith, That he hath some papers which he will peruse, and hopes by them other things may occur to his memory, which he will be ready to add to this his Information; and saith, That he hath been told, That *David Fitz-Gerald* discovered the said Plot both to Sir *Thomas Southwell* and *John Piggot*, Esq; And this Informant saith; That in case this Information should be known, he and his Family are in danger of being murdered.

The

London, ff. *The Information of Maurice Fitz-Gerrald Gent. taken the one and twentieth day of March 1680. upon Oath before me Sir John Frederick Knight and Alderman, one of the Kings Majesties Justices of the Peate for the City of London.*

THis Informant saith that *David Fitz-Gerrald* was a Grand Plotter, and also to be a Captain to assist the French King, as he hath formerly sworn and declared; and that there was a difference between one Collonel *Lacy* and the Lord *Brittis*, which of them should have the said *David* to be their Captain in their said Regiments. And further the said *Maurice* Deposeth, that the said *David* did use all his endeavours to stifle some of his Majesties Evidence, as himself, one *Edmond Morphey John Moyer*, *Hugh Duffey*, *George Coddan*, *Paul Garmley*, and *Mortaph Downing*, from declaring the truth concerning the horrid Popish-Plot in Ireland. And further saith, that the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*, did desire him this Informant and the rest of his Majesties Evidence, to go back for Ireland, that the said *David* might be Captain over all the said Evidence, and have all the benefit to himself. Also the said Informant saith that the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*, did send one *Thomas Fitz-Gerrald*, to one *John Fitz-Gerrald* to perswade him the said *John Fitz-Gerrald* to retract his Evidence. And the said *John* being come to the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*, this Informant was ordered by the said *David* to withdraw into a private Chamber, that he might not hear their Contrivance and Discourse. As also, the said *John* was to be one of the three *Fitz-Gerralds* that were to joyn with the said *David* against his Majesties Evidence. Furthermore, the said *David* did order me to write in my Information, that one *William Hetherington* and the rest of his Majesties Evidence, were but all Rogues and Thieves, and Goale-breakers, and Turbalent persons; and that their Evidence ought not to be taken, either by King or Parliament; And the said *David Fitz-Gerrald* did likewise tell this Informant, that his Majesty told him the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*, that he would not give, or Order any money for his said Evidence that are in the City, unless the said persons would go back from their Evidence, and joyn with the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*, meaning one *Moyer*, *Morphey*, and *Duffey*, that were to have thirty pounds a piece to joyn with the said *David*, against the rest of his Majesties Evidence. Further, being demanded whether *David Fitz-Gerrald* had been at any time in Company with the Earl of *Aron*, and Sir *John Davis*, since the last Sessions of Parliament, saith several times at their respective Lodgings, and likewise, that the said *David* had been several times with Sir *John Fitz-Gerrald* in the Gatehouse, likewise this Informant saith, that he hath seen *David Fitz-Gerrald*, in Company with *Robert Poor*, a person charged for Treason, at the said *Davids* Lodging, where the said *David Fitz-Gerrald* gave the said *Robert Poor* Instructions to draw up the Articles against Mr. *Hetherington*.

Maurice Fitz-Gerrald.

*Jurat Vicesimo primo die Martij
1680. Coram me.*

John Frederick.

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The

The informaton of Owen Callaghan and Murtagh Downing taken upon Oath before the Right Honorable Sir Patient Ward Knight, Lord Mayor of the City of London, the 4th. of May, 1681.

THe said Informants being duly sworn and examined upon the holy Evangelist, depose and saith: That *David Fitz-Gerald* hath used all the means he could possible for to get these Informants to retract from their Evidence these Informants had formerly given in against several persons who were concerned in the late Horrid Popish Plot in *Ireland*. The said *David Fitz-Gerald* meeting with these Informants in the City of *Westminster* near *Charing-Cross* demanded of them these Informants what their business was here in *England*, whereupon they these Informants told the said *David Fitz-Gerald* that they came over to be Witnesses for the King, to whom the said *David Fitz-Gerald* replying, and said to these Informants, that the King did not send for them nor for the rest of the Evidence and that the King had rather that they were all hanged or drowned, than that they should stay here to any such purpose. And these Informants further say, that the said *David Fitz-Gerald* told them these Informants, that those that would joyn with him the said *Fitz-Gerald* against *Mr. William Hetherington*, and the rest of his Majesties Evidence should have money enough, and named Ten Pounds a piece and also their pass for *Ireland*. And these Informants further declare that in the company of one *Morris Fitz-Gerald* who is also one of the Kings Evidence, and the said *Mortagh Downing* one of these Informants being at the sign of the Kings Head in *Long-stre* near *London*, the said *David Fitz-Gerald* declared that the said Evidence had better to go home for *Ireland*: and dig their Potatoe Gardens than to stay here and expect any money from his Majesty for their service. And that the said *David Fitz-Gerald* also declared to these Informants that his Majesty did not care for putting this Popish Plot forward at all, and the said *David Fitz-Gerald* further said, that his Majesty did not believe there was any such Popish Plot intended in *Ireland*. And these Informants further declare, that the said *David Fitz-Gerald* declared and said to these Informants that his Majesty did not care for any man that should speak any thing against his Grace the Duke of *Ormond*, neither would his Majesty believe that the said Duke had any hand in the said *Irish Plot*. And these informants further declare that the said *David Fitz-Gerald*, wherein he could meet with these informants, and the said *Morris Fitz-Gerald* in discourse would tell the foresaid *Morris Fitz-Gerald* and these informants, that his Majesty would not give them any money for maintenance, nor money to bear their charge for *Ireland*, except they would all joyn with him the said *David Fitz-Gerald* against the said *Mr. William Hetherington*, and the rest of his Majesties Evidences: meerly to force them to retract from the discharge of their Consciences in giving in their just Evidences to serve his Majesty, as in true zeal and loyalty to their King and Country they ought to do as becometh true Subjects: And these Informants further declare, that the said *David Fitz-Gerald* declared to several Fryars (whose names

do follow) when first they came to him the said *David Fitz-Gerald*, that they should have no money from his Majesty unless that he the said *David Fitz-Gerald* did further and forward them the old Fryars which he would do upon condition that the said Fryars would assuredly joyn with him the said *David Fitz-Gerald*, against the said Mr. *Hetherington* and the rest of his Majesties Evidence, &c. The which they the said Fryars have since accordingly done and agreed to the said *Fitz-Gerralds* desire, as namely Fryer *John Moyer*, *Edmond Murphey* a secular Priest, Fryer *Hugh Duffey* and others by the said *Fitz-Gerralds* procurement. And these Informants further say, That the said *Fitz-Gerrald* ordered all the said parties to have all things in readines, in order thereunto in Writing: These Informants also say, that the said *Moyer*, *Murphey Duffey* and others, gave him the said *Fitz-Gerrald* a Contract in Writing under their hands, to effect the said purpose solintended by them, which was to side with him the said *Fitz-Gerrald*, against the said Mr. *Hetherington*. And these Informants further say, that the said *David Fitz-Gerrald* hath likewise ingaged himself to the said Fryers, that all the Names of those persons in Ireland, who are concerned in the said horrid Plot, that he the said *Fitz-Gerrald* would undertake to have money enough from his Majesty for them, upon the condition that they would joyn with him the said *Fitz-Gerrald* against the said Mr. *Hetherington*, and thereto to sham their Evidence in speaking the Truth as aforesaid in the discharge of their Consciences. And further the said *David Fitz-Gerrald* told them, these Informants, that he would make his Majesty not to give any of the Evidence that was in this City of London any money at all. and that as soon as the Parliament sate at Oxford, that those Evidences then lying in the City of London, would be all harig'd for lying there; meerly on a pretence to get these Informants as they verily believe, to joyn with him the said *Fitz-Gerrald*, as the beforenamed *Moyer*, *Murphey*, *Duffey*, and one *George Murphy* had done; the which said persons, the said *Fitz-Gerrald* had drawn to side with himself by Treats Threats and Money as aforesaid. And these Informants further say, That the said *David Fitz-Gerrald* declared to them, these Informants, that his Majesty had told him the said *Fitz-Gerrald*, that within one week after the Parliament were met and sate at Oxford, they would be dissolved. And that then every one of the Evidence might go home about their business: and these Informants further say, that one Doctor *Thomas Fitz-Gerrald*, who was sent by the said *David Fitz-Gerrald* as these Informants verily believes, on purpose to Trap or insnare us these Informants in our Evidence, and thereby to know our intentions, and for no other end then to get us to retract our Evidence as aforesaid: he the said Doctor *Thomas Fitz-Gerrald* uttering himself in these words (*viz.*) that he the said Doctor *Fitz-Gerrald* would Pistol or kill the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*, (always provided) That they, these Informants, would joyn with him the said Doctor *Fitz-Gerrald* against the said *David Fitz-Gerrald*. And these Informants further say, That the said Doctor made it his Business to come several Nights to the Informant *Mortough Downings* Lodging to effect his said purpose, thinking thereby to intrap these Informants in their Evidence, as aforesaid, if by any means he could.

The Information of *Bernard Dennis*, taken upon Oath before the Right Honourable Sir *Patient Ward*, Knight, then Lord Mayor of the City of *London*.

I Do remember that Captain *David Fitz-Gerrald* at several places hath told me, that the King was clearly against Mr. *Hetheringtons* proceedings, and that if the Irish Evidence did follow his directions they were likely enough to fall out of the Kings Favour as well as he: and the Reason was, because of his Familiarity with the Earl of *Shaftsbury*. And that his Majesty would be highly disconted that any of the Evidence should proceed against Sir *John Davis* or any of his appointed Magistrates - without his permission. He further told me, that there was a Collection made for the Irish Evidence, in the City of *London*, and that the King had notice of it. And if we would take *Fitz-Gerralds* advice we might have what money we would, and told me that he had five hundred pounds Sterling, and a Commission for a Captains place from his Majesty, and that he was to go suddenly for *Ireland*, he further told me that his Majesty was informed, that we the Kings Evidence came over not to serve him, but to cast an Asperision upon his Majesty: which we utterly then, and always absolutely do deny. Hereupon, we drew and presented a Petition to his Majesty, setting forth the occasion of our coming over: which was to serve his Majesty and the Kingdom, and that when he pleased, we were willing to return home: after this, he told me that his Majesty intended to impeach Mr. *Hetherington*.

Vera Copia.

The

London ff. The Information of *Mary Cox*,
Spinster, taken upon Oath the
eighth day of July, 1681. before Sir
John Frederick Knight, one of his
Majesties Justices of the Peace
for the City of *London*.

MARY COX of *Stoke Newington*, in the County of *Middlesex*, Spinster, maketh Oath, that being at Mr. *Robert Boulter*'s a Stationer in *Cornhill London*, the night before Mr. *Plunket* was Tryed, Mr. *Bernard Dennis* came to speak with Mr. *Boulter* afore said, and in Discourse of the Tryal of *Plunket*, Mr. *Dennis* said, that coming from the other end of the Town, in *Fetter-Lane*, by the *Cross-Keys*, he saw a Crowd of people, and enquiring what was the reason of it, they told him it was a *Subpoena* served upon *Murphy*, and he said *Murphy* had absconded for some time, because he would not have been *subpoenaed*, and he said *Murphy* did say, he would not appear the next day according to the *Subpoena*, but what the Issue was he did not know; but left them and came straight to Mr. *Boulter*. After some Discourse of Mr. *Dennis* his being in *Newgate*, and that Mr. *Wilmore* was Bayl for him and *Muchamara*, my self and Mr. *Boulter* afore said, asked him some Questions about Mr. *Hetherington*, and whether he thought him an honest Man, he told us he thought him a very honest Man for what ever he did see or know concerning him. Then we asked him what was become of his Man *George*, he said he was gone from him over to *Fitz-Gerrald*, and that he had new Clothes, and was very fine, and said so might he have if he would turn *Rogue*, for he said he had a Letter in his Pocket, which made him great proffers to retract his Evidence. We ask'd him from whom he had this Letter, he said from *Fitz-Gerrald*. Then we asked him if he were sure it was from him, and how he knew it, he said it was writ with his own hand, and his Name subscribed to it, and that he knew his Hand very well, and had seen it several times. And he said in this Letter, *Fitz-Gerrald* proffered him Gold and Silver enough holding out his hands, as people do when full of Money, and that he might have his change of Rayment, and live Comfortably not only for the present for the future also. But he said, he hoped

he should approve himself an honest Man, and take Mr. *Boulter's* Council, to keep to the Truth, and then he should never be ashamed. There were present Mr. *Boulter's* Wife, one Mrs. *Norton* and my self. We had several other discourses about divers Irish Men that were gone off, and about the great endeavour *Fitz-Gerrald* made to get the Evidence over to his side, which I cannot remember so particularly as I did the former.

Mary Cox.

*Jurat. octavo die Julij, 1681.
Annos; Caroli secundi nunc
Angl. &c. xxxiiij. Coram me
John Frederick.*

London, &c. The Information of Robert Boulter of Cornhil London, Stationer, taken upon Oath, before Sir John Frederick One of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the City of London, on the eighth day of July 1681.

Robert Boulter of Cornhil London, Stationer, maketh Oath, that he was present when the discourse happened between Mr. *Bernard Dennis*, and Mrs. *Mary Cox*, and himself, as in her Deposition aforesaid is set forth, and that the same is a just and true Account of the said Discourse.

Robert Boulter.

*Jurat. octavo die Julij 1681.
Annos; Caroli secundi nunc
Angl. &c. xxxiiij. Coram me
John Frederick.*

A true Coppy of a Paper, Remaining at the
Council-Board, attested in pursuance of an
Order in Council, Dated the fifth day of
October, 1681.

William Blaitway.

Council-Chamber, the fifth
day of October 1681.

B Ryan Heynes of London, Gent. Aged thirty years and upwards, maketh Oath, that Mr. David Fitz-Gerrald one of the Kings Evidence, about the latter end of February last, told this Deponent that he the said Fitz-Gerrald possessed his Majesty, and also gave it under his hand and Seal, that the late Plot was a Presbyterian Plot, and invented by the Right Honourable Anthony Earl of Shaftsbury, on purpose to extirpate the Family of the Stewarts, and dethrone his present Majesty, and turn England &c. into a Commonwealth, or else set the Crown upon the Earls own head, which the said Earl told the said Fitz-Gerrald, did more appertain to the said Earl, then to his present Majesty, as the said Fitz-Gerrald told this Deponent, and this Deponent further saith, that one Robert Power, Agent for the Earl of Tyrone, & likewise the said Fitz-Gerrald did divers times tamper with this Deponent, to speak to John Macnamarra, to the end the said Macnamarra would retract his Depositions concerning the Popish-Plot against the said Earl of Tyrone, and that in case the said Macnamarra would deny what he deposed against the said Earl of Tyrone, the said Robert Power and David Fitz-Gerrald did to this Deponent promise the said Macnamarra should be provided for all the days of his Life, &c.

Much more this Deponent can say :

And this Deponent further saith, That the said Fitz-Gerrald told this Deponent, he wanted but Mr. John Macnamarra to come in and joyn with him, and he would have the said Earl of Shaftsburies Head off, and Sham the whole Popish-Plot.

S. W.

At

All these are exact Copies of Affidavits and Testimonies freely made by the Irish Evidence (except only that of Mrs. Cox and Mr. Boulter, which relate materially thereunto) And not a man of those Irish-men that made these Oaths, but has since been great with *Fitz-Gerrald*, and submitted to his Conduct, and really done what there they swear, they were first tampered with, and proffered to be suborn'd unto; Whence we may most naturally raise these conclusions.

1. Either what they swore then, was *True*, or *False*. If *True*, nothing is more apparent, Than that this *Fitz-Gerrald* who is now so much in favour with Grantees, and one of the preparers of Witnesses, against Protestants, is one of the worst of Men: And that there were long since ill Designs set on Foot to corrupt them. And who can doubt but they have swallowed the Bait, that sees the sudden change of their Condition from Beggary, to Bravery; whilst they swore against Papists they had not a penny to help themselves, but what peoples Charity gave them, to keep them from Starving; As soon as they began to talk of a Protestant Plot, they appear fine, full of money, have Lodgings, and Diet provided for them, &c. And yet (observe the ridiculous *Absurdity*) these Men (amongst other Lies) must now swear, that Protestants *Brib'd* them to swear that Papists.

On the the other side. If what they swore in these Affidavits be *False*, They are virtually and voluntarily forsworn (if not legally perjured) Consequently nothing any of them shall hereafter (I mean at least against any Protestant, for as to their Testimony against Papists nothing of such a Bias appears) ought to be regarded.

2. If such Practices have been used towards these particular Men (the Indirect Dealings with whom are thus Providentially brought to Light) we have Just Reason to suspect the like, have (behind the Curtain) been also made use of with others, and even several of the *English Witnesses* too have no less receded from their former Declarations and frequently of late *Herd* and associate with these *Tainted Irish-Cattel*. That Subornation is every where Vigorously endeavour'd, and that the Conspirators reckon it worth their while to offer mighty Temptations, and give large Wages of *Iniquity*, too Charming for most Mens slender Honesty to Refuse, is evident by the late Practices with Captain *Wilkinson*. That these Plot-shamming Intrigues were at Bottom carried on by Papists, there is no doubt to be made; Not only because it serves only their Interest. But also from several Instances of *Fact*.

Whist

i. Whil'st these Witneſſes (as I ſaid but now, and 'tis a Conſideration deſerves to be repeated) Charged Papiſts, they were poor, forlorn, miſerable, and had nothing to live on, but what they begg'd of Proteſtants (who though they had the *Compaſſion* not to let them Starve, had no ſuch *kind Principles* as to Bribe them to ſwear falſly againſt any ; That they gave them *ſomething* to keep them *Alive* ſhews their *Charity*. That they gave them *no more*, is an Indeniable Argument of their *Innocency*) But no ſooner did they pretend a Proteſtant Plot, and Damn and Sink againſt *Shaftsbury, Wilmore, &c.* But they were New-Rigg'd, and had plenty of Money and Encouragement. 'Tis not unknown, that four of theſe Poſt-Knights, *viz. Owen Callaghan, John Arthur, Maurice Fitz-Gerrald, and Murtagh Downy* were kept for a conſiderable time at a certain place in *St. Gilſes*, and taken care for by one *M.* an Agent, or Solicitor for the Duke of *Norfolk* (a true Friend to the Catholick Cauſe, till falling out amongſt themſelves, one of them declaring he would not forſwear himſelf againſt my Lord *Shaftsbury*, Mr. *Hetherington* and others ; that were Liſted in *Fitz-Gerralds* and *J. W's* Black Book, unleſs he had as much money as the reſt ('Twas not doing the Job they ſcrupled, but not having equal *Snacks*, divided them) The Cabal of Sham-Plotters, and Plot-Shammers, were forced to meet to appeaſe the Difference. And for fear it ſhould take wind in Town, that good Friend Mr. *M.* moved, that he had a convenient place in the Country and a truſty Friend that would keep them in Decorum. and be as diligent in Inſtructing them, as *Caſtlemain* or *Dangerfield* (in days of Yore) were, in Tutoring the *St. Omers* Lads at *Gammar Cellierſes*. Whereupon, they were Tranſplanted for ſome time down into the *Fenns*, not far from *Lynn* about a place called *Downham*, where they Conn'd their Leſſon ſo faſt, and behav'd themſelves ſo Inſolently, that 'twas feared they would have ſworn Treason againſt moſt part of the Country (Papiſts only excepted) For they had not only aſſaulted a worthy Loyal Juſtice of the Peace, but were contriving to make a *Swear* (as they call it) againſt ſeveral others that would not Associate with them, had not their Mannagers again thought fit to remove them up to Town with the reſt that were entertained in the *Subornation-Office*, That they might all the better Concur in their Tales, firſt to procure a Proteſtant-Plot in General, and then to proceed in particular againſt all thoſe both in City and Country that were in *F.-G.* and *J.-W's* Fatal Liſts. Out of which, the Grand Sham-Plotter, *Fitz-G.* was pleaſed to ſhew a great many Names of Perſons that were to be charged with High-Treſon by him and the reſt of his Confederates, to a certain honeſt Man of *Ireland*, by whom he ſent ſeveral *Broad-Pieces* (part of the price of his Soul) to his Wife, who was before in a Starving Condition.

2. There was some time since one Mr. *Harley* a Protestant that came over, and could make a very considerable Discovery of the Popish-Plot in *Ireland*, and brought with him Letters of Recommendation from a Noble Protestant Peer in that Kingdom, The Right Honourable the Lord Viscount *Shannon*, but *Fitz-G.* and the rest of that ungodly Tribe, meeting with him, and thinking he had no more Conscience than themselves, used all means to get him to make up one of their Number, intended for the *Sham-Plot-Office*, But he detesting their wicked Designs, they immediately procured a Fellow to Arrest him in a *Folt-Action*, and clap him up in the *Marshall's* in *Southwark*, where (contrary to a late *Statute*) he was thrust amongst the *Common Felons*; and there continued four or five days without Meat or Drink, (unless the *Pump* and kindness of his Companions who had scarce sustenance for themselves, supply'd him) and none of his Friends knew what was become of him, till a person by chance meeting with Mr. *Hetherington*, told him one of the Kings Evidence was in that desperate deplorable Condition, and that without speedy Relief, he would not live till the next day. Whereupon Mr. *Hetherington* taking pity on the poor Man though altogether unknown to him, was so Charitable as not to suffer a Stranger and a Christian to perish for want; especially coming on so good an Account as he did, to serve his King and Country, and the Protestant Religion: and so went immediately and paid his Fees and got him Released. But the poor Mans Spirits were so far spent, that he never Recovered, but having Languish'd for some time, Dyed; And who at the great day of Account are to Answer for his Blood, is left to that Tremendous Assize where all wicked Contrivers and false Witnesses and corrupt Judges shall receive an Impartial Doom.
3. That these Sham-Office-Evidence are still in their Hearts Papists though they pretend to be Protestants; appears, for that several of them since they Lifted themselves in *Fitz-Geralds* Troop have been with the Condemned Priests and Jesuites and Madam Damnable *Celiers* the Midwife, or chief Lady of the Popish Inchantments. And 'tis highly probable, That they gave them Absolution (as they did to the beforementioned *Arthur*, (commonly called *Club-Foot*) for swearing against Mr. *Hetherington*) And upon Condition to do some great Service for their Interest, as swearing a Protestant Plot against all such as they should direct, they may again be Reconciled to the Church of Rome.
4. These

4. These Witnesses cannot deny, but they have often said, Nay, some of them have given it under their hands, and declared upon Oath, That it was no sin to spill Protestants Blood, but a Meritorious Act, and that it is usual with the Popish Clergy to give Absolution as well before the Fact committed, as after, the better to effect their Designs. I do for the Truth thereof Appeal to some of the Papers of that Popish Traitor Bishop *Plunket* lately executed, which were delivered by Mr. *Hetherington* to the King and Council.

There is one thing more I may not omit, which is, That *David Fitz-Gerrald* (upon a hearing between him and Mr. *William Hetherington*, before the King and Council, did assert, That he could procure forty Irishmen for forty pound, to Swear to whatever he desired them, upon which it was Replied, That he gave an honourable Character of his Countrymen.

Several other Deductions and Notes might be made on the foregoing Depositions, But I would neither weary nor fore-stall the Reader; I conceived my self bound in Duty to my King and Country and the Protestant Religion, to make them publique, and some other Depositions there are likewise, not less material, but too long or in some Respects not fit yet to be Printed. I think these sufficient to give us an Insight into the Intrigue, for he's but an Ill *Woodman*, that cannot discover the Nature and Size of the *Beast*, by the View of his *Excrement*.

William Hetherington!

F I N I S.